

Cultural Council Minutes

July 21, 2010

Present: Kathy Feek, Leah Kliger, Amy Whittenburg, Jeff Parks, Sheila Mickool, Melissa Nelson, Rebecca Devere, Bhaj Townsend, Ellen Miller-Wolfe (staff) Julie Huffman (staff). GG Getz and Erik Gordon joined the meeting late.

Absent: Cathy Heffron, Emily Hanna, Margit Moore

AGENDA ADDITIONS

Leah requested a Chair report be added to the agenda. Rebecca announced that Christopher from KAC wants to be sure the Cultural Council is aware that the Arts Center will be fundraising in 2012 for their anniversary.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion made and all approved the minutes as written.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Financial Update

Julie Huffman passed out a final version of the Cultural Council Expenditures from 2008-2010, which is a summary of all incoming and outgoing funds of the Cultural Council. Julie also reported that the staffing year to date had been funded by the one-time stimulus grant from 4Culture, and starting August 1st will move to the 4Culture Sustained Support, which the Cultural Council has received previously and hopes to continue to receive.

Staff Report

Ellen Miller-Wolfe reported on the new website www.creativekirkland.com, a website about artists (creatives) who live in Kirkland, and the places in Kirkland that fuel their creative spirit. It is both a tourism and arts website. There is an application on the site to apply to be featured.

Council usually has a retreat in the Fall. Staff is starting to plan for that retreat. There are several options of what to do—review subcommittees and their work plans, review strategic plan, or other ideas. A subcommittee to plan the retreat (meeting only twice) should be formed. Typically it is the same date (Oct 20) from 4-8. Amy, Cathy and Bhaj can help. Staff will send out a framework and members can comment on it. The third week is not good for Amy. Staff will poll to see if there is a date that works for everyone.

Chair Report

Leah reported that Bill Ballentine had proposed an endowment with the Kirkland Arts Center, and scheduled a meeting to discuss this with Larry Springer, Toby Nixon, Arts Center and KPC representatives, and Bill Woods. Leah attended and reported on the Cultural Council's work on a foundation, and determination that it was not appropriate for a City board. She also reported on the background work that Sheila has been doing as a private citizen. After that meeting, it was reported that the idea of an endowment was no longer of interest to Mr. Ballentine. There are several other people who are still interested in this idea of an endowment or foundation, however, and Sheila will continue her work.

Leah also reported on her meeting with Kurt, where she shared the accomplishments document, a letter asking for him to support a request for a .25fte staff member for the Cultural Council to go to the City Council, and the expenditures summary, which shows how much the Council has accomplished with very few funds.

Kurt Triplett, City Manager, joined the meeting at 5pm. Council members introduced themselves to the City Manager, who also introduced himself and discussed his view of the arts as integral to economic development and quality of life in Kirkland.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kirkland CACHET

The committee is planning its next gathering at Studio East and should have a date to announce soon.

Foundation

The foundation committee is focusing on a signature event. They would like something very unique. One idea is ArtPrize. Another is Spoleto from Italy. That is the long-term plan. They also recognize the need to do something to raise funds quickly. The next meeting will be on Thursday the 29th at 10, and they will brainstorm ideas for quick and easy fundraisers. The committee developed criteria to evaluate ideas.

Artilizing Kirkland

Kathy reported on the Artilization committee. The last meeting had 16 people, 5 from the council and 11 community members. Kathy shared an e-mail that summarizes their projects and who is working on them. Currently they are talking to landlords to see if they can put exhibits in the storefronts. They have spoken with the owner of the antique mall, to look at having artists create a gallery there temporarily. Rebecca reported that they are also planning for the holidays to have a window display competition. They are trying to address the projects that do not require funds first. They are looking for prize donations to offer the winners. Kathy reported on the 2nd Thursday on Park Lane. Merrill Gardens is participating. Blauback gallery is also helping to bring additional artists in for the 2nd Thursday Artwalk. Les Utley proposed underground art in the Heathman garage. Artilization also wrote an LTAC grant for an event called FishArt Frolic along the waterfront. Yet another idea is to have pianos outside in Kirkland for people to play. This committee is also looking at live/work places in Kirkland. Jeff showed the banners that will be displayed in all pop-up shops and window exhibits to let people know that the spaces are available and to let them know about the Artilization project. The committee may need funds for balloons and for the window signs to put toward the holiday window display competition. The next committee meeting will be in September.

Public/Private Art

Noel Hupprich and Julie GaNung from Washington State Department of Transportation were present to discuss the sound walls that will be built along 520 in Kirkland. As 520 is widened, they will build a retaining wall along NE Points Drive along the Yarrow Bay Wetlands and Plaza at Yarrow Bay. They cannot match the walls Kirkland has along 405, as they do not have a % for art program. Given the options that are available, the Cultural Council subcommittee initially voted on the Ashlar option, but would prefer to have an additional option of something a little less simple. WDOT is hoping to make decisions in early August. They would prefer an answer in the next week.

Bob Larson has resigned from the Cultural Council but will remain on the subcommittee. Cathy will Chair the committee, however she is not present tonight so please get your votes to Kathy.

Discussion on the Park Lane sculpture was postponed to a future meeting due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00.